

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1, after the Title of the Invention and before line 3,

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a divisional application of U.S. patent application no. 09/912,027, filed on July 24, 2001; which, in turn claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. provisional patent application no. 60/221,210, filed on July 27, 2000.--

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 4, before line 2:

--Fig. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a cushion in accordance with the present invention indicating the dimensions of the cushion.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 12-13 as follows,

Fig. 6A is a vertical plane cross-sectional view of a stint meter in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 6B is a horizontal plane cross-sectional view of a stint meter in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view of an L-shaped cushion in accordance with the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 16-21 as follows,

Reference will now be made in detail to exemplary embodiments of the invention. One skilled in the art, given the description of the invention herein will recognize the utility of the apparatus and method of the present invention in a variety of diverse table games including at least pool, snooker, billiards, biljart, bumper pool and other similar table games. However, for ease of description, the present invention will be described in the context of the game of pool.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 4-24 as follows,

In addition, the nature of the material used for the cushion of the present invention and the extrusion process used to make it, permit the cushion to be tailored to virtually any shore hardness, which may be required by table manufacturers. The cushion of the present invention is

preferably made from one of several high-tech engineered polymeric materials, which can be engineered to the shore hardness and elasticity required for billiard tables. Cushions made from such engineered polymeric materials have a consistency superior to that of gum rubber and they last longer. Also, due to the engineered properties of the polymeric materials, cushions made from them do not require a control cloth, which is a major source of wear and breakdown in conventional cushions. One exemplary suitable polymeric material is Monprene® #1037FL. Monprene® has the advantages that it is easily extrudable, has the right properties for cushions, will significantly outlast cushions made from natural rubber, is resistant to low temperatures and ultraviolet degradation and does not require vulcanization in the manufacturing process. Other similar materials may also be employed and such similar materials are known to those skilled in the art. A suitable exemplary hot bond tape is 3M® #4981 hot bond tape. Other similar hot bond tapes may also be employed and such similar materials are known to those skilled in the art. Cold bond tapes may also be employed. The tape is preferably co-extruded with the Monprene® to form it as an integral part of the cushion. The cushion material should have a Shore hardness of 25-45 on the A scale instantaneous and should rate 60-90 on the resilience test per ASTM standard D 2632-96.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 25-33 as follows,

Fig. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a cushion in accordance with the present invention indicating the dimensions of the cushion. Referring to Figs. 1A-1B, there is shown a cross-sectional view of a K-66 cushion made by an integrated extrusion process in accordance with the present invention from Monprene® #1037FL and 3M® #4981 hot bond tape. "K-66" is a standard designation of a particular type of cushion used for a particular type of billiard table. The dimensions of a standard K-66 cushion are depicted in Fig. 1A. Fig. 1B shows a K-66 cushion structure³¹ including a triangular section 32 and tape 33 that is employed to affix triangular section 32 to a billiard table instead of using, for example, the highly complex conventional method of affixing cushions to a billiard table that is depicted in Fig. 2.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, line 34 to page 6, line 4 as follows,

Referring to Fig. 2, there is shown a cross-sectional view of prior art rails and blinds. This view shows how to attach a conventional prior art cushion to a standard pool table to ensure

that the control cloth is taut, properly positioned and maintained in place. Using the present invention, this can be greatly simplified since the control cloth can be eliminated and the hot bond tape can be employed to affix the cushion directly to the wood portion of the billiard table.

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 5-9 as follows,

In a second aspect, the present invention relates to an inertia based geometrically correct cue stick. The cue may be used for playing any table billiards game, which requires the use of a cue and can be made in a variety of sizes and weights to suit different players and different games. The cue of the present invention may include one or more of several features, which may render it distinctive.

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, lines 27-35 as follows,

Finally, the cue of the present invention may be constructed from any suitable polymeric material. Use of such polymeric materials low cost, high durability cues. Also, polymeric materials can be employed to provide variable weights, lengths and diameters, as well as a variety of different surface finishes including finishes with a very low coefficient of friction to reduce sticking of the cue in the hand. These features allow a player to customize the cue to exacting specifications. Finally, polymeric materials can be fabricated to very tight tolerances allowing for precision manufacture of cues. Particular suitable polymeric materials are polymer composites since they are durable, light weight and easy to manufacture.

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, line 33 to page 14, line 2 as follows,

In another aspect, the present invention relates to an apparatus for checking or to rate the quality of a billiard table. One embodiment of such an apparatus is shown in Fig. 6 in a vertical plane cross-section in Fig. 6A and a horizontal plane cross section in Fig. 6B. This device will be called a stint meter for the purpose of this description.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, lines 3-10 as follows,

In its simplest form, the stint meter includes a vertical tube 10, which extends down and connects to a curved tube 11, located in a base 12. The stint meter is placed on a billiard table with the base 12 sitting on the table and the back side 13 of the base 12 up against one of the

cushions. A ball is dropped down vertical tube 10 through top opening 14 and passes through curved tube 11 in base 12 and rolls out onto the billiard table. Since the ball can be dropped from a constant height at opening 14, the distance that the ball rolls can be used to measure the speed of the table and/or the bounce of the cushions.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, lines 11-15 as follows,

A more sophisticated stint meter is shown in Figs. 6A-6B since it has a plurality of openings 15 located at different heights along vertical tube 10 through which a ball can be inserted into vertical tube 10 at a variety of different heights. In this manner, the stint meter of Figs. 6A-6B can be used to perform a variety of different methods of testing a billiard table to provide an overall quality rating for that table.